

S/N 09/458,779

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Martin Latterich et al.

Examiner: Katharine F. Davis

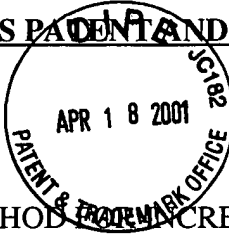
Serial No.: 09/458,779

Group Art Unit: 1636

Filed: December 10, 1999

Docket: 1211.001US1

Title: SEQUENCE AND METHOD FOR INCREASING PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN CELLULAR EXPRESSION SYSTEMS



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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on December 15, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Office action, thereby moving the deadline for response from March 15, 2001 to April 16, 2001 (Monday).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 13, 24, 28 and 35. Please amend the claims as follows:

3. **[Amended]** [The polynucleotide of claim 1] A polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding a functional vesicular fusion factor 2 protein (Vff2p), wherein the Vff2p comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a variant thereof, and wherein the Vff2p is a yeast protein involved in the secretory pathway and/or involved in the required cellular machinery for membrane fusion.
4. **[Amended]** The polynucleotide of claim [1] 3, comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or a variant thereof.
5. **[Amended]** The polynucleotide of claim [1] 3, wherein the protein is about 32 kD.
6. **[Amended]** The polynucleotide of claim [1] 3, further comprising a promoter operatively linked to the sequence encoding the Vff2p.

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